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BULLETIN

OF THE

American Iris Society

October, 1931

EXHIBITIONS.

No. 41

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CONTENTS

The 1931 Iridiad. *Sherman R. Duffy* 3

Exhibitions. *Thura Truax Hires, Chairman* 14

Varietal Notes from Washington, D. C. *Chas. E. F. Gersdorff* 19

What Price a Seedling. *J. Marion Shull* 23

Tid-bits 29th. From New Mexico; Trials at Wisley; Treatment for Root Rot; Gardening Knows No Age Limit; From Belgium; "Nashville, The Iris City" 25

Published Quarterly by
SCIENCE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY. LIME & GREEN STS., LANCASTER. PA.
Subscription price to members $3.00 per year, non-members $1.00 per copy.

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

IRIS NOTES FOR 1931

SHERMAN R. DUFFY

The 1931 Iridiad seemed to mark the complete emancipation of American gardens from any necessity of foreign importations with their exorbitant prices and chances of heavy losses through late arrival plus government ministrations. American seedlings of uniformly high character confronted us on every hand with a greater variety and originality of color than has been displayed by recent foreign importations which have, for the most part, been improvements on something else.

Strangely enough, the greatest new Irises of the season seemed to be the black Iris, or, at least the Iris with black falls, and remarkably fine new white Irises. Unfortunately the black Irises, Black Wings from Chancellor Kirkland, and Hans Sass' El Tovar, hailed by those who saw it as one of the most unusual and remarkable Irises yet turned out, remained in tantalizing bud while I was inspecting them. Which is the blacker, remains for comparison.

The Cayeux Mme. Serouge which I have seen, and it is a magnificent dark Iris, I am told, is closest to Black Wings.

El Tovar, according to reports is unlike any other Iris, being a study in brown and black illuminated with a glowing yellow center and brilliant deep yellow beard. Mr. Howard Judson, of Omaha, and Dr. Harry H. Everett, of Lincoln, both keen judges of Iris and acquainted with the newest varieties, unite in declaring El Tovar the most strikingly beautiful and unusual dark Iris they have ever seen. Mr. Jacob Sass unhesitatingly declares it is the finest he has ever seen.

Knowing the keen rivalry between the Sass Brothers, although altogether friendly, this is an admission, indeed.

Hans, the soul of modesty about his own productions and who contents himself with an official Ridgway description, letting his Irises speak for themselves otherwise, admitted to a close friend, that he believed it would be hard to beat.

The Iris was named by Mr. Judson, the name being suggested because he said its rich colorings reminded him of the dusky depths

of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado in certain lights when the velvety blacks and browns prevailed, El Tovar being the name of the Spanish explorer who discovered the Grand Canyon.

Hans' description of this Iris is the following—

Standards Mikado brown with honey yellow center. Falls velvety black, the reverse of the falls yellow. Heavy substance. Large flowers of fine form. Stalk branching, 36 to 38 inches.

The breeding is King Tut x Cardinal.

Jacob Sass' Blackamoor is black enough when half opened but does not hold its ebon depths. It is a magnificent thing, nevertheless, nearly four feet tall, a huge flower on fine branched stems. The breeding is (Beau Ideal x Archeveque) x Baldwin. It is of Harmony coloring including the blue beard.

Black Wings was one of the outstanding Irises in Mrs. Pattison's garden at Freeport during show week, opening the second day of the show being a rather late season bloomer. Its black depths are said to be due to black veinings on a very dark purple ground, fluorite violet.

Among the whites, Jacob Sass' Wambliska, a sensation last year, looks to be the finest of the lot with the possible exception of Dr. Loomis' White Dominion of which there are enthusiastic reports and which in a photograph looks as good as reported, a huge snowy flower of Dominion form and heavy texture. As to its height, I have no exact figures.

Wambliska, however, is the largest, tallest white yet shown in the middle west, attaining four feet and of vigorous growth and apparently a free bloomer as it appeared in Nebraska. It bloomed on a very short stem in Mrs. Pattison's garden giving no idea whatever of its true form. It is larger than Shasta when grown in good form in this section and Shasta when at its best has been the largest and finest white I have seen previously. It is also taller than Shasta.

The blue tint in the center of the flower seems to heighten the cold whiteness of falls and standards, operating much like bluing in the wash water. The reports of last year were not exaggerations as this beautiful Iris bloomed in Nebraska.

Mr. Connell's Selene as it bloomed in Mrs. Pattison's garden, although in much better form than Wambliska, would have to be 100 per cent. better at least to compete with Wambliska at its best. Selene is a silvery, that is to say a gray white. As I saw it, its

only claim to outstanding quality was the fact that it was of entirely different form from other white Irises but a form that I like least of the various forms which Irises assume, the long drooping falls, which seem to me to have the least poise and grace.

While the plant in Mrs. Pattison's garden seemed vigorous, healthy and well grown, it was not tall and had only four buds to the stalk all of which opened at nearly the same time so that it was gone while the rest of the Iris procession was in full motion. I do not know what height it would make on a well established clump but judged from its general appearance that 3 ft. would be its probable normal well grown stature. However, this is a difficult matter to guess with any degree of accuracy on a newly set rhizome as Wambliska didn't make more than two feet in Freeport while I had seen it four feet only a week previously on the Jacob Sass farm.

Dr. Ayres also has a fine white seedling and both Hans and Jacob Sass have other white seedlings that would be given an honored place in any garden.

Another of Chancellor Kirkland's Irises that looks like one of the really great Irises that again bloomed in magnificent form in Mrs. Pattison's garden was Morning Glory. It was planted close to Ministre Fernand David, the much mixed up No. 4196 of Cayeux and while not quite so dark bears considerable resemblance to the famous dark French production and is fully its equal in beautiful form and finish with better height and stalk. The minister is one of the very finest of dark Irises and was in beautiful form this year, even better than in its first blooming last year.

Still another beauty from Dr. Kirkland was Summer Cloud, a much improved Lady Sackville type and a far better grower and also a much refined edition of one of its parents, Simone Vaissiere. It is most fittingly named as the coloring is that of blue sky and fleecy clouds.

Dr. Loomis' new yellow, Chromylla, which last year in a single stem showed great promise as an outstanding yellow more than fulfilled that promise. It has the finest substance and smoothest texture combined with size, height and a well balanced, nicely branched stem of any yellow shown in this section. I thought it better than Helios and Dr. Everett also expressed a similar opinion. It is a deeper color, pale lemon with a deep yellow beard and no markings or veinings and evenly colored. A block in full bloom

which I saw in Mrs. Pattison's garden a few days before the show was a beautiful sight. It is not as deep colored as Pluie d'Or but is a flower of far finer form and finish and much larger.

The chief fault in Helios is that the huge flowers are borne so close together at the top of the stem. It has no peer among yellows for size aside from W. R. Dykes. The veinings were less apparent this year than in previous seasons and not sufficient to detract from its beauty as a pale yellow self.

Dr. Ayres' Red Dominion was another of the outstanding new ones in Mrs. Pattison's collection. This is a very fine Iris as is also Mr. Connell's Rose Dominion although one could wish it had better height. Red Dominion is a gorgeous red purple of Cardinal type but a far more vivid coloring.

Mrs. Pattison's plan of planting the newest and finest Irises in a special display garden instead of in commercial blocks is a most admirable one and permits visitors to view them from all angles and to observe their garden effect. In this manner the value of the newer Irises planted in telling combinations of color is brought out in excellent manner.

Mrs. Pattison's garden which has become an institution coupled with the annual Freeport two day show which draws Iris admirers from all over the middle west, furnished the climax of a trip that took me to Des Moines and the fine show of the Des Moines Garden club, then to Omaha and Lincoln.

For the past three seasons I have heard glowing reports of the brilliancy of the newer Sass Irises and when an invitation arrived from Mr. Jacob Sass to spend a week as his guest at his farm near Omaha, it was eagerly accepted and proved a most delightful treat, the most of the time being spent vibrating between his garden and that of his brother Hans, seven miles away.

There has been no exaggeration concerning the brilliancy and unusual coloring obtained by the Sass Brothers. I think it is safe to say that they have the most brilliantly colored Irises of any breeders in the world. Much of this brilliancy is due to the influence of King Tut, a new color note when it was originated and one of the most vivid Irises, quite different from any other in coloring.

The ancient Pharaoh in the iridescent metapsychosis is a rampant red and as a result there are red uprisings all over the Sass farms. These are, for the most part brown reds and the brown

tones in the Sass Irises are new and unusual as a prevailing note. One meets constantly Hessian, cameo, Mikado, walnut, chestnut, cacao, sayal and other browns and these brown tones seem to plant beautifully with either blue or pink toned Irises. They have also a number of brown blends in softer shades, café a la creme tones, that is to say, richer than the café au lait of the frugal French.

The originality of their colors is due to the fact that they have used seedlings of their own development almost exclusively, the only outside influence of distant effect being Cardinal which has been used freely. There have been a number of very fine new reds of Cardinal ancestry but they are mostly a little dull, purple reds. King Tut gives glowing brown reds. The crossing of these two red influences has produced magnificent results in an astonishingly wide range of color from the variegata, King Juba, one of the finest of this type I have seen, 38 inches tall and large flowered, to the black falls of El Tovar with all manner of intermediate reds, yellow and brown combinations.

Jacob Sass has a dazzling series from a cross of Red Wing by King Tut, Red Wing being one of the most telling reds.

The crossing of the brown trimmed plicata, Chestnut, and King Tut has given a series of blends of great beauty in which yellow prevails. The huge blue Baldwin crossed with King Tut gave Waconda, a fine big red toned Iris with remarkable carrying power for a red purple of its depth. And so on.

The pink and yellow blend, Midgard, crossed with the peach-toned plicata King Karl has produced another fine series of blends, a new one introduced by Hans, No-we-ta, being a pink self of most unusual tone. It attracted much attention and was hailed as one of the outstanding blends by many visitors.

Midgard by Rameses has produced still another series of blends two of which bloomed for the first time while I was in Nebraska and were most unusual in coloring, one a pinkish cinnamon self with Chinese violet veinings and a sparkling iridescence. The other, a gray, buff, and mauve combination was a beautiful study in soft tones.

Cardinal crossed with some of their fall blooming strains has given a fall blooming Cardinal type.

In connection with the striking value of King Tut for breeding purposes its pedigree is of interest, showing the mingling of strains. King Tut is (Variegata Seedling x Dalmatica) x (Seedling No. 2

x Amas). King Tut seedlings seem to yield larger and taller plants than King Tut himself. Seedling No. 2, if I remember correctly, was a red purple bicolor.

One interested in Iris breeding could write volumes about the Sass combinations all of which are carefully recorded.

From their gardens, Hans and Jacob and myself finished my trip by driving to Lincoln to visit Dr. Everett who had also been a guest at the Sass farms and had gone over the Irises with us. Dr. Everett has a very carefully selected collection of the finest modern Irises planted in narrow borders about his lawns where they may be observed and studied at close range with the greatest ease.

Here I saw Wambliska in competition with a fine clump of Shasta which I have always preferred to Purissima. In comparison with Wambliska and the faint blue tint at its center, Shasta looked a very warm white. Wambliska was larger and taller. They were so distinct in character, although both whites, that one will not displace the other. Any garden would be glad to have both.

I also saw a fine stalk of Mr. Morrison's Honeydrop which was a much finer Iris than I had suspected from its showing in Illinois. It proved to be a beautiful blend with four huge flowers open at once. I had never seen more than one flower on a stalk previously.

Dr. Everett had a very handsome medium toned blue seedling of his own raising that was of excellent quality. Speaking of blues, Hans Sass' Blue Hill is a very fine production distinguished by an almost ideally branched stalk. The large ruffled flowers are of as fine a blue tone as Sensation but a little deeper. The Cayeux Zampa, seen for the first time this year in Mrs. Pattison's garden, is another extra fine blue toned Iris of medium depth, tall and large flowered of exceptionally fine substance. It is a periwinkle blue, a color not recognized by Ridgway, but nearly every one is familiar with the periwinkle *Vinca minor,* more commonly known as grave myrtle, so the term is descriptive.

I had a thorough workout on Ridgway while a guest of the Sass family. Henry Sass, Jacob's second son, has stepped into father's shoes as hybridizer in chief and chronicler of the Almanach de Gotha of Sass Irises. Henry moved about among the Irises with Ridgway under his arm or in hand like a monk with his breviary. Every promising new Iris in both the Maple Road and Midwest gardens is Ridgwayed. I had never expected to have so much Ridgway in my system but a standard is necessary and the Ridg-

way descriptions for the most part are employed in the following descriptive notes:

AMBERA (H. P. Sass)—A large flowered amber yellow intermediate of fine form, texture and purity of coloring. If Soledad is properly rated at 92 this one should rate about 130. In his yellow intermediates of which he has a large number, Mr. Sass has outstripped the tall bearded class in range, depth and purity of color. Most of them bloom well into the tall bearded class owing to their firm texture and may be used as such. Mr. Sass is trying to take his richly colored yellows into the tall bearded class and is edging closer each season. Ambera is 30 inches tall, and Cyrus, another yellow he has named this year has made 32. They are all that could be desired in the way of size. The elements needed are height and number of buds to a stalk, the intermediates usually running from 2 to 4. Cyrus has 5 and 6. It is a yellow pumila seedling × mesopotamica, well branched, a medium toned yellow with a deeper patch of slightly greenish cast at the end of the beard, a very striking Iris. It is slightly smaller flowered than Ambera and much deeper. I agree with Dr. Everett in wanting my yellow Irises yellow, not nearly white or cream colored as so many yellows are and the yellowest Iris I have yet found was Hans' intermediate I 25–31, better colored than any of the tall bearded deep yellows and of a luminous clarity. The standards were lemon chrome and the falls light cadmium with a rich orange beard. It was 30 inches tall. His yellow intermediates were superfine and surprisingly brilliant in tone.

AUBADE (Connell)—A beautiful yellow bicolor with rosy falls margined with the same yellow as the standards. A large flower that bloomed on a short stem in Mrs. Pattison's garden but which I am told makes good height. It is comparable to M. Arnal, one of my favorites, in some respects better and in others I prefer M. Arnal. Aubade's standards are a purer more luminous yellow than those of M. Arnal but the falls of the latter I think a better color. Aubade is a larger flower but M. Arnal, I judge, is the taller and better branched. M. Arnal makes a beautiful garden clump. Aubade with its clearer yellow standards should make a beautiful display in a large clump.

BEAU SABREUR (Williamson)—A fine Dominion race variegata but overshadowed by Hans Sass' King Juba of practically the same coloring but larger, at least six inches taller and a better all around Iris.

CLARA NOYES (H. P. Sass)—Perhaps the most strikingly colored of all the new Irises I saw this year and one that attracted attention wherever shown. It is a blend of red, orange and yellow tones, a highly intensified Midgard might convey an idea of it, blooms of good size on well though high branched 3 foot stems, 9 blooms to a stalk and a long season. The Ridgway of its standards Etruscan red; falls, yellow ground at haft deepening to the color of the standards at the tip of the falls, heavily veined Van Dyke red. Very brilliant and beautiful Iris that everybody wanted at sight. It will be a high light in the garden.

COLOSSUS (H. P. Sass)—A likely candidate for such honors as attach to the world's biggest Iris. As big or bigger than Nêne and of about Germaine Perthuis coloring but on stems too short for such huge bulk, about 30 inches. An amazing Iris that should be of value in breeding to give size.

DECENNIAL (Williamson)—A handsome and unusual variegata, distinguished by wide velvety red purple falls with a blaze of blue in the center, giving the bloom unusual character, large blooms and a real addition to the variegatas. I preferred it to Beau Sabreur but perhaps that was because I saw the Sass King Juba blooming near Beau Sabreur which made the latter look like a lesser edition of it. It was rather short as I saw it in Hans Sass' garden but it was a new plant.

GIANT KING (H. P. Sass)—A giant flowered Iris King in effect with a touch of red on the midribs of the standards. 34 inches tall. One of the largest variegatas yet attained, larger than many of the larger flowered types such as Ballerine, and about equal in size to Claude Aureau and a fine companion piece in the variegata line.

JOYCETTE (Jacob Sass)—This is the red of Jacob's celebrated red, white and blue series the white and blue being Wambliska and Blackamoor. Joycette is a brilliant brown red not as large or as tall as the white and blue members of the triad but a fitting companion for them. I saw only a cut bloom of this in poor light in which it looked like a fine Iris, but the color did not appear as it would in clear daylight.

KING JUBA (H. P. Sass)—An extra fine, large tall variegata. Standards old gold with dahlia carmine falls, branching just above the center of the 38 to 40 inch stalk with nine buds to a stalk. A brilliant Iris likely to be in demand when better known.

MRS. HERBERT HOOVER (Homewood Gardens)—A gorgeous new pink on the salmon side illuminated by a glowing yellow center, its most striking feature. It is said to be of Dominion ancestry but shows little of it in appearance. Its three foot stems bear many blooms open at once of medium size. It is between Frivolité and Marquisette in coloring without their veining and resembles Messaline in the beautiful central glow. It is of no better coloring than Frivolité so far as pink tone is concerned and is not so tall and is not so well branched as the French pair as I saw them growing in Mrs. Pattison's garden. Its yellow tones make it more brilliant. Frivolité this year I thought better than Marquisette although on first seeing it last year I preferred the latter. It is much better colored and a fine rich pink note in the garden, a tall and stately Iris.

ROSE OF CUBA (Jacob Sass) —(Aphrodite × Jacinto) A bright color in a new rose toned Iris on the order of Cayeux's Fragonard with a darker splash of color at the end of the beard. Of medium height and a good grower. It makes a brilliant clump in the garden being about the amparo purple of Ridgway. Height 30 inches.

VELVET KING (McKee)—One of the many fine new American seedlings on trial in Mrs. Pattison's garden and one of the good ones. A Dominion of the Zulu-Swazi-Blue Velvet series distinguished by intensity of color and the number of blooms open at once on the tall and finely branched stalks. The standards are of a lighter blue than those of Blue Velvet and it is not as large. The falls are the intense velvety purple of Dominion, a very showy Iris of different style of growth from most of the blue purple Dominions.

VERT GALANT (Cayeux)—This Dykes medal winner, which was disappointing last year, bloomed in beautiful form this year and the award was more understandable. Another factor was that it was not immediately adjoining Député Nomblot this year as it was last year, as the latter quite outshines it and it is inexplicable how Vert Galant, fine as it is, should be a first choice for the medal leaving Député Nomblot to wait a year. In form it is almost a model, the rich red brown tones are beautiful and the chief mar on its beauty is the heavy veining.

DÉPUTÉ NOMBLOT—This is the finest Cayeux Iris yet exhibited in this part of the country and seems destined to be one

of the really greats of the Iris world. In height, size, and branching it presents beautiful balance while the rosy tones of the standards make it a more brilliant Iris than Mrs. Valerie West. Mrs. Valerie West has one most desirable characteristic which is its great freedom of bloom, devoting its strength to producing bloom stalks at the expense of increase. It has proved one of the most reliable bloomers among modern Irises. Député Nomblot seems to be a free bloomer also.

PLUIE D'OR—This Iris in the dark rainy weather at Freeport during the show showed a luminous quality that made it most effective. It still has no peer among the bright yellows shown hereabouts. Coronation is closest in height and branching and Prairie Gold is a richer yellow but much shorter.

INDIAN (H. P. Sass)—This Iris, although introdueed some three seasons ago, still seems comparatively unknown. It is a striking lavender and yellow blend that approaches salmon tone. It has given some finely colored light blend seedlings.

THURATUS (H. P. Sass)—A tall dark beauty introduced this year, close to a self, of blackish prune purple and fluorite purple. It might be a competitor for the black championship.

MIDWEST PRIDE (H. P. Sass)—This is in effect a giant Archeveque and close to R. W. Wallace but a far better grower and bloomer.

QUIVERA (Jacob Sass)—Another of the fascinating Sass blends which make bright spots in the garden, the prevailing color tones being buff and pink on a tall, well branched stalk. Flowers of medium size.

SUNGOD (H. P. Sass)—A brilliant medium toned yellow which will be a welcome addition to this class, tall, and good sized, the falls slightly veined red purple. A clump of this lights up finely and was one of the showy ones in Hans Sass' gardens.

EUPHONY (H. P. Sass)—A very good one somewhat of the Ophelia type, the falls being of the same beautiful blend. The standards, however, are very different, being erect, fluted, mustard yellow toning into brown at the tips. It is taller and brighter than Ophelia.

ODENVOGEL (Goos & Koenemann)—One of the newer German variegatas and a very good one that will displace the older Loreley. A large flower of luminous yellow, light lemon, standards and broad straight hanging falls of rich violet purple. A handsome variegata of distinctive form for the class.

SPRING MAID (Loomis)—This was one of a number of fine seedlings from Dr. Loomis, a tall, large pink delicately tinted bicolor suggestive of apple blossoms which doubtless suggested the name. It is to be introduced by Mrs. Pattison next year. It is the tallest of this type I have seen and a very fine Iris. Dr. Ayres' Coralie, another delicately colored beauty, is somewhat similar but of a different tone.

SACHEM (Loomis)—This handsome brown red velvety beauty was noted under number last year and is a striking bit of color of Bruno ancestry. It, too, is slated for introduction. A sister seedling with much more yellow in the standards was a brilliant Iris. Dr. Loomis in his mingling of the Dominion race with yellows and other strains has a fine line of seedlings.

EREBIAN (Loomis)—This dusky Iris in dark red purple, a Sherbet × Dominion seedling, has plenty of competition among dark Irises this season but holds its own as one of the good dark ones. This cross has proved an effective breeding factor, giving size and height and the strength of stem from the Dominion line that Sherbet lacks.

DOUGLAS (Jacob Sass)—A blue violet giant of imposing stature. Standards lavender-violet; falls, petunia-violet with saccardo-violet at the end of the beard, 40 inches. This was much admired in the Maple Road gardens this year and last. It was named for the county in which the Jacob Sass farm is located.

OKOBOJI (Jacob Sass)—This is a maverick that strayed into the Jacob Sass seedling rows without a pedigree but a beautiful dark Iris in rich velvet. Standards deep livid purple; falls, velvety dark maroon-purple. It gives strangely colored red toned plicata seedlings, one of which, a weird Iris of singular spidery streaking and specking has unofficially been designated "Tarantula." It looks like a combination of a big spider and a bunch of bananas in coloring.

RED WING × KING TUT (Jacob Sass No. 30–40)—Selected as the finest of this series of seedlings and Mr. Sass solemnly declares that if it doesn't rate at least 92 he will deprive his cows of their annual fall treat and eat his old straw hat himself. It refused to open in time for me to see it but judging by others of the series its brilliancy is guaranteed and I'd hate to cheat the cows. Its official Ridgway diagnosis is standards, walnut brown, overlaid pink; falls, dark velvety maroon, lightening to morocco red at the margins.

KING TUT × CHESTNUT (Jacob Sass No. 30–11)—A blend that made an instantaneous hit with me and in general appearance suggested a yellower Rameses. It is surprisingly large, considering its parentage, neither parent being of more than medium size, and is 38 to 40 inches tall. Being interpreted in the tongue of Ridgway, standards Isabella with pink reflections; falls, the same ground color as the standards with a mineral red band at the end of the beard. This is to be named for introduction next year, Mr. Sass tells me.

EXHIBITIONS—1931

Boston, Massachusetts. The show staged by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and The American Iris Society, June 5 and 6, while not so good as the one in 1930, due to heat, wind and rain, brought forth quite a fine showing of some of the newer Irises. The Silver Medal was awarded to Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, Mr. R. N. Maxwell winning the Bronze Medal. Mr. W. J. McKee, of Worcester, won the Silver Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded to a spike of Sensation as the finest specimen stalk in the show. Mr. T. F. Donahue's seedling, Polar King, rated at 82 per cent., was recommended for an Honorable Mention by the judges. Miss Sturtevant, Mrs. Peckham and Mr. R. M. Cooley, and will be placed upon the list of recommended seedlings to be considered by the Committee on Awards.

Dallas, Texas. The Dallas Iris Society held its second show on April 20 at the Dallas Woman's Club. The ball room was used for the lovely display gardens arranged by the Marianne Scruggs Garden Club, Dallas Garden Club of the Dallas Woman's Club, Dallas Iris Society and the group of men members of the Iris Society. Two adjoining rooms were used for the classes calling for collections and specimens. The Silver Medal was won by Mrs. Gross R. Scruggs and the Bronze Medal by Mrs. Alex Camp. In the novice group Miss Marie Ervine won the Membership in the American Iris Society offered by the Society.

Des Moines, Iowa. The Des Moines Garden Club staged its Spring Flower Show May 22, 23 and 24 at The City Water Works Park. This Club is one of the most influential and progressive in the Midwest, always staging beautiful shows that attract visitors from many states. The date was a bit too early for the Irises about

Exhibit at Dallas, Texas, staged by Mrs. J. B. Walker, Mrs. J. E. Lee, Mrs. H. Mareus, and Miss Lively, the colors all in blue and gold.

Des Moines, but the Sasses kindly staged a non-competitive showing of their seedlings and the newer varieties from other breeders that more than compensated for the loss of the local bloom. In the specimen classes Florentina, Lent A. Williamson, Lohengrin, Old Gold and Quaker Lady won first places. On each day there were classes for Window Box, Wall Niche, Shadow Box, Wall Pocket, Table and Flower arrangements, each class calling for different flowers, while the specimen classes changed daily. One of the most interesting classes was for Markets—Old World and New. The Junior Section, sponsored by the public schools, had classes calling for Miniature gardens, Landscape garden models, Flower containers, Flower design, Garden markers, Table arrangements, Shadow Box arrangements, Flower arrangements for teacher's desk, school auditorium, and for tray.

Duluth, Minnesota. Mrs. Schlamann reports that the Third Annual Iris Show of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society, held June 18 and 19, was the best so far held both for quantity and quality of flowers. The Duluth gardeners are beginning to take a keen interest in the Iris, each season finding a more select group of varieties exhibited. Mrs. Joseph M. Sellwood won the Silver Medal, and Mrs. M. F. Bates won the Bronze Medal. Membership in the Society was awarded to Mrs. Oscar A. Anderson. The Silver Cup offered by the Duluth *Herald* was awarded to Mrs. J. R. Oppel for the most outstanding collection, consisting of twenty varieties exhibited in almost perfect condition. In so far as possible Mrs. Schlamann has sent lists of the winning varieties in each class.

Class 107. Collection of Irises, bearded, no limit to number.

First award to Mrs. M. F. Bates with the following: Acacia Rose, Ariel, Autumn King, Ambassadeur, Albert Victor, Aphrodite, Acheron, American Black Knight, Aurora, Azure, Buto, B. Y. Morrison, Cameliard, Colonel Candelot, Clematis, Caporal, Church Mouse, Chalice, Dream, Duke of York, Diadem, Edith Scoville, Empire, Eckesachs, Flammenschwert, Fairy, Improved King, Katherine Fryer, Katherine E. Lees, Lent A. Williamson, Lord of June, Marsh Marigold, Mrs. Hetty Matson, Mme. Chereau, Nibelungen, Parc de Neuilly, Prospero, Perfection, Perledonna, Prosper Laugier, Peau Rouge, Queen of May, Queen Caterina, Seminole, Virginia Moore, Valencia, Zua, Zwanenburg.

(The editor regrets that further details must be omitted.)

Freeport, Illinois. The Freeport Garden Club held its annual Iris Show June 6 and 7. As has come to be expected this was the outstanding show of the central district, and drew many visitors from all sections of the country. Mrs. Douglas Pattison's Educational Exhibit and the Seedling Class were the center of attraction at the show while Quality Gardens, with its lovely display gardens containing many of the recent novelties from all breeders and seedlings on trial, was crowded with visitors during all the daylight hours. Mr. O. E. Heard, Jr., won the Silver Medal, Mr. C. A. Sherman winning the Bronze Medal. Mr. Sherman also won the award for the finest specimen stalk, a splendid spike of King Tut. The most meritorious exhibit was staged by Mr. Jacob Sass.

Lincoln, Nebraska. The Garden Club of Lincoln held its Spring Flower Show May 30 and 31 in the beautiful Morrill Hall. The main entrance was decorated with masses of evergreens by one of the local nurserymen, the soft greens furnishing a lovely approach to the many gardens in the main halls. The University of Nebraska staged a beautiful display of shrubs and flowers, while the City Park Department showed a large tropical garden. One of the nurserymen made a very attractive rock garden and several commercial growers displayed long tables of flowers, principally Irises. There were a number of lovely gardens, one of the most interesting being the formal Iris garden arranged by Dr. Everett. This was one of the outstanding non-competitive features of the show. One of the galleries was devoted to non-competitive table arrangements for various occasions. There were 111 entries in various classes of garden flowers and their arrangements and 39 entries in the peony classes, the date being early for the latter. In the Iris section there were 144 entries, the Silver Medal being won by Mr. Max Schnitter and the Bronze Medal by Mr. J. H. Bratt, of Bennet, Nebraska. This is the first time the Society has cooperated with the Lincoln Club and we hope we may have that privilege yearly. Lincoln is rapidly becoming one of the Iris centers of the Mid-west, due to the enthusiasm of Dr. Harry Everett, one of our Regional Vice-Presidents, who is quite willing to look at Irises all day and talk of them all night.

San Bernardino, California. The group of Iris enthusiasts in the San Bernardino Iris Society may well be considered among the blessed in having so many species, other than the tall bearded

Irises, blooming at the time of their show. Much as one may care for the tall bearded it is a joy to see nicely balanced groups of other species. This year there was a large showing of fine specimens of Spanish and Dutch Irises, quantities of Cacique, monaurea, ochroleuca; fine specimens of the rich blue savannarum, William Mohr, tectorum, white and blue hexagona, fulva, Mrs. Tait and monspur, as well as many varieties of siberian and orientalis. Two blooms of laevigata albo purpurea from Dr. Williams' garden were judged the most outstanding exhibit in the show, winning the sundial donated by the local Iris Society. Mrs. Lothrop exhibited the dainty chrysophylla and purdyi, and Dr. Williams exhibited the lovely douglasiana. There were 405 entries, not so many as the year before, but the blooms were of a higher quality and many thought the show more beautiful. Mrs. Lothrop was awarded the Silver Medal, Dr. Williams receiving the Bronze Medal. A pinkish gray apogon seedling shown by Dr. Williams, a Mother of Pearl × Dejazet seedling from Mrs. Lothrop's garden and Mr. Milliken's red seedling, probably to be named "Red Flare," were rated and are to be recommended to the Committee on Awards. Winning varieties in the show were:

Class 1. Beardless Irises (siberica, spuria or hexagona), specimen stalk. 1. Blue hexagona. 2. Douglasiana. 3. Cacique.

Class 2. Beardless Irises (siberica, spuria or hexagona), three stalks one variety. 1. Hexagona alba. 2. Cacique. 3. Snow Queen.

Class 3. Beardless Irises (California, longipetala, crested), specimen stalk. 1. Laevigata albo purpurea. 2. Purdyi. 3. Macrosiphon.

Class 4. Beardless Irises (California, longipetala, crested), three stalks one variety. 1. Tectorum. 2. Douglasiana.

Class 5. Bulbous Irises (Spanish, Dutch, etc.), specimen stalk. 1. Queen Wilhelmina. 2. Cajanus. 3. Imperator.

Class 6. Bulbous Irises (Spanish, Dutch, etc.), three stalks one variety. 1. Queen Wilhelmina. 2. Queen Wilhelmina. 3. King of the Blues.

Class 7. Oncocyclus and Regelia Irises and their hybrids, specimen stalk. 1. William Mohr. 2. William Mohr. 3. Nyfert.

Class 8. Oncocyclus and Regelia Irises and their hybrids, three stalks one variety. 1. William Mohr. 2. William Mohr.

Class 13. Self colored white, specimen stalk. 1. Purissima. 2. Kashmir White. 3. Taj Mahal.

Class 14. White plicata, specimen stalk. 1. Princess Osra. 2. Alameda.

Class 15. White bicolor, specimen stalk. 1. Rhein Nixe. 2. Mary Williamson. 3. Mildred Presby.

Class 16. Self colored, lavender, blue or purple, specimen stalk. 1. Corrida. 3. Avalon.

Class 17. Lavender, blue or purple, bi-color, specimen stalk. 1. Valkyrie. 2. Ambassadeur. 3. Mme. Gaudichau.

Class 18. Self colored pink, specimen stalk. 1. Susan Bliss. 2. J. B. Dumas. 3. Airy Dream.

Class 20. Self colored red, specimen stalk. 1. Oread. 2. Evadne.

Class 21. Red bi-color, specimen stalk. 1. Conchobar. 2. Romola. 3. Sequoiah.

Class 22. Light blends, specimen stalk. 1. April. 2. Theme. 3. Aurifero.

Class 23. Dark blends, specimen stalk. 1. Beth. 3. Rameldo.

Class 24. Self colored yellow, specimen stalk. 1. Rae. 3. Yellow Moon.

Class 25. Yellow plicata, specimen stalk. 1. Loudoun. 2. King Karl.

Class 26. Yellow bi-color, specimen stalk. 1. Rialgar. 2. Citronella.

Class 27. Three stalks of bearded Irises, one variety. 1. Bruno. 2. M Yellow. 3. Mother of Pearl.

In Classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 for Artistic arrangements there were many beautiful entries, one a low opaque green glass bowl filled with sand in which were placed a few pretty stones. Two tiny pumila plants furnished the Iris note. Combined with them were lilac toned aubretia, a perky little viola plant full of bloom, a tuft of pink armeria and yellow sedum trailed over the edge. Another was a low unglazed Mexican pottery bowl in which were dwarf Irises, Mexican primroses, sand verbena and the low dwarf lavender convolvulus.

San Diego, California. On April 11th and 12th the San Diego Floral Association held its twenty-fourth annual Spring Flower Show at Balboa Park. This is the second year the Society has had the privilege of co-operating and Mrs. Tuttle writes there was double the number of exhibitors, while the Association gave the Iris division the most prominent space in the show room. The Bronze Medal of the Society was awarded to Mrs. Neff Bakkers. Roses have been the outstanding feature of these shows for many

years, but now the Irises rival them, not only in beauty, but in the interest of the visitors. Cacti, other spring flowers, rock gardens, with their pools in which were reflected an almost tropical growth of ferns, and palms and many artistically arranged tables were other interesting exhibits. The United States Naval Training Station staged a "north garden" using a lily pond backed by masses of ferns, palms and trees. Flashes of color seemed to shoot out from the shadows of green, within which had been placed cinerarias, their deep, soft colors harmonizing with the cool green. The Marine Base entered the class for miniature gardens, exhibiting a rich green lawn in front of a white latticed fence covered with Cecil Bruner roses. At each side of the lawn single shrubs were placed, while a vivid display of flowers was arranged in a small garden. The Park Board received a special award for its display of roses, while the Natural History Museum received one for its showing of wild flowers.

VARIETAL NOTES FROM WASHINGTON, D. C. II

Chas. E. F. Gersdorff

I was fortunate in seeing, this spring, Mr. Sheets' extensive Iris garden. Never have I seen better grown plants than these, growing as they were in a quite sandy soil. I understand that the sub-soil is quite heavy. Height, branching and free growth and bloom are prevalent here.

I saw bloom for the first time on Bosniamac (Willmott) though I have had it for years. Up to two years ago most of my stocks were planted in a field 20 minutes away from my home and because of my government work not easily visited so that many varieties bloomed in the past seasons unseen by me. It is rather an odd color, not particularly attractive but of large size and fine form of crinkly appearance. Its possible value lies in breeding for unusual blends in intermediates and adding its size and form to that class. I tried it both ways this spring with several varieties but without success. I have not given up hope. In effect it is a greyish white and putty color.

Mildred Presby (Farr) is apparently a variety that is unaffected by adverse conditions. It bloomed as well in the 1930 drought season and in 1931 as in other seasons of bountiful rainfall. It is one of the most admired clumps in my Weed Patch.

My Weed Patch cannot properly be termed a garden in the sense of planting values. Its a conglomerate of all sorts of plants mixed regardless of the usual laws for planting these stocks. It is a garden however in its approach to an attempt to have something in bloom most of the time. It is a Weed Patch in the sense that it is not always clean in appearance. Often as not the grass needs cutting or needs to be pulled from amongst the plants. Iris are growing amongst Roses with bulbous plants where they may be squeezed in, such as Tiger Lilies, ornithogalum umbellatum, brodiæa uniflora, oxalis bowei, scillas in variety, tulips, chionodoxa, violets, crocus, with here and there a shrub, and you will find beardless Iris planted amongst the bearded types. There is also a bank given up to Iris, hemerocallis in variety, Iberis, vinca, nepeta, yucca, plumbago and some of our native violets. The oxalis and violets form a cooling ground cover.

Tristram (Bliss) is an odd little thing. Out of curiosity I bred Homer C. on it this spring. Curiosity often leads me to breed amongst oddly different things, because I get lots of fun out of such attempts and perhaps something really worth while will eventuate. I would not recommend Tristram as a "must have." It can well be forgotten with such better things as Daphne, Gen. MacPherson, Rhein Nixe and MILDRED PRESBY available, and as far as I am concerned it will be when my pod is harvested.

One that made quite a hit with me this year was Distinctive (*Distinction*) (Cayeux). It has fine form, is large, of sufficient height and is free blooming. I particularly liked its color effect of a yellowish pinkish blend in the sunlight. I shall use it to carry on with any attempts for a real yellow pink variety. I do not mind giving up this "secret" because there are others working along similar lines.

I would like to see a Jacqueline Guillot (Cayeux) with stronger stalks. Most always they bend with the weight of the numerous large and very finely formed blossoms. In spite of its tendency to throw weak stems, sometimes almost crawling on the ground, it shall find a place in my garden until a stronger one is found.

One peculiar result of last year's drought was the soft mushroom-like growth of the stalks of normally strongly upright sorts, which followed the copious rainfall of this present season. Nearly all varieties needed staking. The drought also affected the quantity of bloom to a marked degree, some not blooming at all, others

with just one or a few stalks, considering only the established clumps, while some like Dusk, Valery Mayet, Shakoka, Mildred Presby, Juma, Chasseur, Mela-haska, Queen Caterina, Shaga-laska, Prospero, Ch'enyaun, Steepway, Flammenschwert, Golden Heart, Mme. Cheri, Jacqueline Guillot, Horizon, Kedeshka, Arlington, Magnifica, Ambassadeur, Joya, Homer C., Santa Barbara, Caroline E. Stringer, Shekinah, Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau, Aurelle, Prosper Laugier, Kathryn Fryer, Natasha, Gargantue, Oliver Perthuis, Silverado, Ramona, Sachem, Gratone, Anne Bullen, Lorice, Impressario, Soledad, Yvonne Pelletier, Silver Mist, Suzanne Autissier and Mrs. Cuthbertson gave bountifully of their bloom. A few newly set divisions making no growth in 1930, also bloomed well, seemingly making up for lost time by renewed early activity this spring and giving several stalks of bloom including such as Ochracea, White Queen, Tinkerbell, Bosniamac, Sachem and several others.

Sachem (Loomis) formed several stalks on a newly set 1930 single division, and seemed so promising as a blended brilliant of King Tut type that I immediately used some of its pollen. Fine form, heavy substance, beautiful color.

A "must have" is My Maryland (Sheets), a richly colored velvety red-toned dark one, a vigorous grower with enormous flowers of fine and elegant form and substance. Its stalks are not only tall, but low, long and widely branched, very free in blooms.

Arlington (Simpson) can well replace Magnifica because of better colored falls and substance. Also it is not so spreading in growth as the latter, and is better in quantity of bloom. The color effect is the same and close up Magnifica's falls are homely in coloring.

For a smoothly finished thing I commend Gargantue, one of the few which withstood the bad conditions of past two seasons without weakening of the stalks. Quite large, fine form and a beautiful mauve in effect. Would that it were better and lower branched.

I cannot understand the low rating on Ramona. As a garden clump it's quite effective in its rosy copper blend effect. It is very free in bloom with flaring falls, a form that is just right that all its beauties may be enjoyed as we look down on the blooming clump.

Silverado (Mohr) is a beautifully formed blended light grayish blue and light buff of handsome crinkly finish, free in bloom, making a nice garden clump.

Santa Barbara (Mohr) is a gem of the first water. A cool crisp blue with flaring falls and excellent size and substance.

Steepway is in effect a coppery blend. I like its form with the open standards and straight hanging falls, forming almost a square in outline. Very free in bloom and blooming over a long period.

For a real dark one on the brown black side Geo. J. Tribolet (Wmsn.) excites admiration of passersby and the expression often heard is wonder that there can be such a color in Iris. But then the new colors throughout the Weed Patch bring like exclamations from the rank and file not Iris-wise.

Dusk (Morrison) is often likened to Ambassadeur. With me the former is brighter in effect, of entirely different form and growth. Dusk has widely and quite low branched stalks with more blooms than Ambassadeur, and is taller—there is room for both.

I think I have about taken sufficient space for the nonce and will close with the observation that Homer C. in no way may be likened or compared to Opera. With me it is too much on the blue side, somewhere between Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau and Aurelle. Opera is much redder, yet lighter too. Homer C. (Morrison) is liked by me for its fine form and its nicely crinkled standards.

WHAT PRICE A SEEDLING?

J. Marion Shull

In Bulletin 39 reporting from the various test gardens there runs an under current of complaint of the slowness with which the newer things make their appearance in the test gardens. I think every one is agreed that the ideal test garden would be one in which every new arrival thought worthy of a name and a chance at perpetuation would immediately find a home, but let us consider for a moment how utterly unattainable this ideal happens to be.

The Iris breeder, having spent years of earnest consideration of his problems, possibly, in the aggregate, years of painstaking labor as well, ultimately arrives at something so outstanding that there is no question in his own mind as to its distinction and intrinsic worth. In all the world there is but this single stem of it. He may feel that the thrill of discovery is ample return for all his

outlay in time and cash, and so it is so long as he feels that way. But the fact remains that it did cost something and just possibly a good deal.

This first mature rhizome is now spent with bloom, and all he has is perhaps half a dozen small lateral eyes with which to face a world in which there lie in wait such dragons as root-rot, Delphinium rot, drought, borers, cats and dogs, any one of which may challenge its right to exist. How much is it worth?

I have allowed myself to think of such a plant as worth, at least potentially, a thousand dollars. Perfectly ridiculous I know, for the figure might almost as reasonably be ten thousand, or it may not be worth ten cents, but for the nonce, and in order that we may discuss it, let us put its value at one thousand dollars.

Granting that the various dragons remain harmless, that no dogs trample nor cats make their latrine in the immediate neighborhood, he may have six lovely stems of bloom the second year—it may of course be more or less, according to the ancestral heritage—but again these six stems of bloom mean as many spent rhizomes and only the juvenile laterals remain to carry on. Say there are now thirty growing points many of them still quite small. Again, how much are they worth in the aggregate? How much for a single plant of the largest size, of which there may now be a dozen at most? If a thousand dollars was the proper measure a year ago, then in the aggregate they must be worth something more than that this year, allowing at least for a fair rate of interest on the money and for the cost of a year's care. Again for the nonce let us say that these twelve strongest plants, though not necessarily for sale, are worth fifty dollars each, with the smaller ones worth less and less, their value being difficult of determination and rather potential than actual.

At this stage is about where the test garden would ideally come in—and when there was but one test garden to consider, a generous breeder might have been favorably disposed to make the sacrifice. But now there are more than a dozen gardens bidding for his contribution and he can not possibly afford it unless he is content to see his entire output reach the public by way of the test gardens and forego any financial reimbursement whatever.

If no such dispersal of plants has taken place and if ordinary methods of multiplication have been resorted to in the meantime, and if the growing conditions have been favorable, the breeder may

have, following the fourth year of bloom, some fifty to sixty merchantable plants available for distribution. Again, how much are they worth? But by now the answer is subject to modification by so many intricate and often intangible details that it may be anybody's guess and the real measure of worth becomes just what they will bring in the market, wherein a great deal depends on the ability of the salesman, and some more on Lady Luck.

In any case it would appear that the test garden will have to wait as heretofore till the newness has somewhat worn away, and that the Editor is right in saying in Bulletin 40 that "The real testing of new American varieties is now done by the expert commercial growers." Here the breeder is not without his reward and his plants are reasonably sure to be grown with a care equal to that of his own garden, and the maker of the test is not without prospect of financial reimbursement, tho he must be prepared to lose in a percentage of cases.

TID-BITS 29TH

From New Mexico, May 22, 1931, George E. Moore

In Albuquerque, the Iris for this season are nearing the end of the blooming period. They started about thirty days or more ago and have shown up very well. They have been at their best the past week or ten days. I do not know of any extensive varieties here and have only seen about a dozen different color combinations.

The spring has been exceptionally cool, snow having fallen during the past week not far north of us and in the higher mountains. I believe we only had two flurries of snow all winter in Albuquerque. The climate here is quite agreeable.

Many of the better residences are still being built in the lowlands, or the older part of the city, where the soil is river alluvium, sandy and extremely fertile when properly drained. These conditions make flower gardening in Albuquerque a pleasant task.

Iris blooming is about two weeks later here than in El Paso. I find in my Iris memorandum made two years ago that "Kochii" started blooming March 26th, followed by "Lutescens Major" March 28th, the latter planted on the east side of the house and protected from all afternoon sun. This also applies to "Stylosa" and was the first bloomer March 1st. Then followed "Walhalla."

"Powhatan" and "Quaker Lady" early in April; then "Parc de Neuilly" and "Rhein Nixe" the middle of April, Corrida the last day of April and "Flavescens" early in May. Blooming dates checked very closely in El Paso from year to year. I have never tried "Regelia" and "Oncocyclus" hybrids. However, should I return to the "Desert Country" they will have my attention.

* * * * * *

Trials at Wisley, Fred J. Chittenden, Director

The Royal Horticultural Society, working in conjunction with the Iris Society, will carry out trials of bulbous Irises in its gardens at Wisley during the coming year, and raisers and growers of these are invited to send six bulbs of each variety for trial so as to reach the Director (from whom the necessary entry forms can be obtained) by September 30th, 1931.

"Spanish" and "English" bulbous Irises are especially desired and new varieties of "Dutch," the collection of the older varieties of "Dutch" Irises being fairly complete. The trials of bearded Irises are being continued and new varieties of these should be sent as soon as possible after flowering, and of Irises of the Sibirica group in early autumn. If sent by post the parcels should be addressed to the Director, R. H. S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey; if by rail via Horsley Station, Southern Railway.

* * * * * *

Treatment for Root Rot, Sherman R. Duffy

A real cure for root rot in Irises which is a most destructive and heart breaking pest in many gardens seems to have been discovered by Jacob Sass. This is Cupro Jabonite,* the trade name of a chemical compound used by western farmers for the treatment of seed wheat to prevent smut. It is a copper salt preparation, I am told, and in the form of a powder.

Mr. Sass experimented in the application of this fungicide and to his surprise found that sprinkling it over the affected rhizomes dried up the rot in the course of a day or two without the necessity of scraping out the diseased portions which has been found necessary with permanganate, bichloride or gypsum treatment. After two seasons' experiments Mr. Sass doesn't hesitate to pronounce Cupro Jabonite a successful cure for rot. If it works as successfully in other sections as it does in Nebraska, it will be a boon to Iris growers. Experiments are now being carried on.

* From G. C. Gordon Chemical Co., 1406 W. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Of even greater interest, but much less conclusive because of the small number and brief period of the experiments, is a test of this compound as a preventive of delphinium blacks. Mr. Sass tried it on one badly infected clump and the new growth following its application was clean and healthy. On Mr. Sass' recommendation, I made one trial of it with similar results, the infected delphiniums showing no trace of blacks on the new growth after powdering them copiously with Cupro Jabonite and cutting away the diseased growth. However, two experiments are not sufficiently conclusive to justify positive statements.

Mr. Sass, I am certain, would be glad to give details of his experiments to members of the society who would write him about it.

As the compound is comparatively inexpensive, it is to be hoped that it proves as efficacious as experiments to date indicate.

In the same connection there has been some discussion and I hope there will be experiments,—I hope to try it myself,—with the red spider glue treatment which is so surprisingly effective against this pest, particularly on conifers and on perennial phlox which suffers so much from these mites. Mrs. Silas B. Waters, of Cincinnati, who has used the glue spray extensively for red spider with most gratifying results, sends the formula as follows:

1 lb. of common glue. Dissolve on the stove in one to two gallons of water. Then dilute to 10 gallons and spray. Two sprayings three days apart dispose of red spiders.

The theory in connection with the Iris borer, which may or may not be sound, is that a coating of the glue spray in early spring might deter the tiny caterpillars from making their way into the fans. Only a test could determine and as it could do no possible harm, I should like to see it tried. The borer becomes a more devastating pest each year and little headway in checking it seems to have been made to date.

With us Semesan is successful with the rot.—*Ed.*

* * * * * *

Gardening Knows No Age Limits

Excerpts from a letter to Chas. E. F. Gersdorff by Mrs. Wm. H. Benners, Dallas, Texas.

"Being an ardent Iris addict and a member of the American Iris Society, I must tell you how greatly I enjoyed your article in the March number of American Home Magazine. . . . Why should the amateur home gardener strive for those Irises of high exhibi-

tion rating when the thing we are after principally is a lovely garden effect. It is true that we are all prone to human frailty, in that it is pleasing to win a blue ribbon or its larger financial equivalent—but I for one am not going to strip my garden of its beauties for the doubtful advantage of being listed amongst the prize winners. It is not sour grapes either—I've been so listed for several years! For this reason I see also that the more spectacular the container the greater the recognition of the contents—regardless of quality, etc.

. . . I do know that too much lime is harmful. I have fertilized with sulphur to advantage with such varieties as Mlle. Schwartz, Mme. Durand and Carmelo, but Isoline grows here like a weed, with only careful attention as to moisture, etc. All require this. I am enclosing a few views that you may know me to be a bona-fide gardener, if only an amateur.

Just in front of my window is a splendid clump of Souvenir de Loetitia Michaud. Mrs. Marion Cran was a distinct disappointment. It may be that our hot sun fades the color. (It should be in light shade).

My greatest interest and curiosity now centers in some second blooming seedlings of Caterina and an exquisite blend of Miss Sturtevant's. Last year I had a first bloom of a Caterina seedling that was only a trifle smaller than Santa Barbara, a blue self of same tone with horizontal falls. Interesting yes, but alas what may it be this year? It is an interesting game—what with hand pollenating Irises and budding Roses—my play years now are all too few—four to go, and I will have reached my three score and ten; I'm crowding in all that is possible too!

. . . Today I have used Morning Splendor, Le Correge, Jubilee, Glowing Embers, Sherbert, Senorita, Queen Caterina, Dream, Vesper Gold, Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau, Princess Beatrice, Harmony and several highly rated yellows. If Frieda Mohr doesn't turn out pinker than specimen I saw yesterday then it is highly overrated as to color. . . . It seems to me that we are getting away from many old ideas concerning Irises as well as Roses. . . .

It is a relief to be able to rest, tho' only in kind—since the only reason I am not pulling weeds and Larkspur is a cold, which demands that all people must stay off the wet ground.

You would, I assume, use the term Intermediate to apply to height, rather than time of blooming. It might be just as well perhaps—for the blooming season of the three get wonderfully

mixed. For instance Jeanne D'Arc bloomed early and late. Whereas a beautiful dark purple Pumila has just finished blooming along with Asia. Think of it! Not a very great many of the "tall bearded" go higher than 30–36 inches with us. It may be climate differences. My seedlings of up to 51 inches were rather unusual and by the way one resembles in a lighter tone, that of Amerind.

* * * * * *

From J. Aerts, 41 Rue Horace, Anderlich—Bruxelles, Belgium: "I have made a deal of photographs, drawings, and paintings and have also obtained the wonderful numbers of Addisonia and it is a pity that we can not have as fine plates of all members of the genus. Perhaps the Society may be able, some day, to have such a work of art published at a reasonable price.

"Do you know of anyone with coloured plates of I. missouriensis, longipetala, or ensata and the California species or of anyone who would favour me with good photographs of the same. Needless to say I would gladly cover the expense.

"This year I am offering the State Horticultural School in Vilvorde another 100 varieties of Iris bringing the total up to 300. At a recent exhibit I received an award of merit for twelve coloured plates and a monograph on the Juno Irises."

* * * * * *

Nashville, The Iris City: With Chancellor Kirkland as president the new Nashville Iris Association bids fair to fulfill its purpose of fostering the planting of Irises on public grounds and rights of way. The objects of the association meet with the approval not only of the city and county park boards but with that of the various commercial and fraternal organizations. Mr. Connell, as Secretary, will, I hope, prove more ready to write than the pages of our Bulletins would lead us to expect.

* * * * * *

Anonymous. "I was amazed at the list of new introductions. I don't believe anyone in the world can produce fifty or more Irises in one season worthy of name and introduction. The Iris, I deduce, owes its popularity to its tremendous sex appeal. Everybody that gets a few feels the urge to breed them and the plant is getting altogether biological. Its a great pastime for bachelors and spinsters, satisfying, in a way, the parental instinct and yet the offspring need no education."

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American Iris Society Bulletin

R. S. STURTEVANT, Editor

GROTON, MASS.

Published in the interest of Iris Growers

American Iris Society Test Gardens

Who and Where They Are—What They Need

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. Dr. Geo. M. Reed in charge. Test Garden for Beardless Irises making a special study of Japanese varieties. Pests and diseases studied here. New Japanese, New Siberian, Beardless species, Oncocyclus and Regelia varieties required. Communication in regard to Beardless varieties invited.

California Botanic Garden, Sawtelle, Calif. Dr. S. S. Berry, 1145 W. Highland Ave., Redlands, Calif., supervising Iris collection. Plants for this garden should be sent in his care. The collection at the Garden is being maintained though no actual test work is being carried on.

Cornell University, Dept. of Floriculture, Ithaca, N. Y. Mr. Alfred M. S. Pridham in charge. General Test Garden. Large collection standard varieties needing all newer varieties including Bulbous. Dwarf Bearded test being made by Dr. Albert H. Wright. Two plants of each of these should be sent to him that they can be studied in the two plots.

Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, Iowa. Prof. E. C. Volz in charge. General Test Garden having standard varieties. Needs all new varieties and any Beardless, Japanese and Dwarf Bearded varieties.

Macdonald College, Quebec, Canada. Prof. T. G. Bunting in charge. Have a small collection of standard varieties and need all newer sorts of all groups. American originations will be especially welcome. Please let Prof. Bunting know what you can send and he will send you a permit number for entry of the plants into Canada.

Marsh Botanical Garden, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Dr. Geo. C. Nichols in charge. Have a collection of better standard sorts and some newer varieties. Need new Beardless and newest Bearded.

Minnesota, University of. Mr. F. X. Schreiner, Route 1, Riverview Sta., St. Paul, Minn., in charge. Varieties of Bearded, Beardless, species and Bulbous. All needed for study and display.

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo. Mr. P. A. Kohl in charge. General Test Garden desiring all new varieties, Bearded, Beardless or Bulbous and species to complete collection and provide material for various tests and display.

Morton Arboretum, Lisle, DuPage Co., Ill. Mr. C. E. Godshalk in charge. General Test and Display Garden for all kinds of Bearded, Beardless, species. Many duplicates needed as several gardens are being laid out. All standard and new sorts welcome.

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York, N. Y. Mr. K. M. Boynton in charge. Test Garden for Bearded varieties. **Trial Garden for seedlings.** Breeding Garden for species under direction of Dr. A. B. Stout. Dr. J. K. Small is testing and describing new species collected by him. New varieties of Bearded needed. Seedlings sent in should be marked "Seedlings for Trial."

Oklahoma, The University of. Norman, Oklahoma. Prof. R. H. Moore in charge. Needed all standard and new varieties of Bearded, Beardless, Bulbous and species. Wish to get a good representative collection here for study and display.

Saskatchewan, University of. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Prof. C. F. Patterson in charge. Glad to receive any newer varieties, particularly of American seedlings and all species to test for hardiness. All groups desired. Senders should write first to Prof. Patterson, who will get permit for specified number of plants.

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas. Dr. S. H. Yarnell in charge. General Test Garden anxious for all species, Beardless, Bearded, Dwarf Bearded, Bulbous varieties for tests and display. Oncocyclus and Regelia varieties welcomed here. Plants are best sent here in September, October, November rather than in late July and August because of the dry summer season.

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